

**Annual Operating Instructions  
2013  
Grass Creek Allotment  
Fillmore RD, Fishlake NF**

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some or part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Failure to follow these instructions is a violation of your permit.

Permittee	Ear Tag Color & #'s	Permitted*			Authorized**		
		Number	Class	Season	Number	Class	Season
Travis Kesler	RED 1-69	71	Cow/calf	6/16-10/15	71	Cow/calf	6/16-10/15
Vance Finlinson	70-302	241	Cow/calf	6/16-10/15	241	Cow/calf	6/16-10/15
Missouri Flat Ltd. Partnership	303-683	394	Cow/calf	6/16-10/15	394	Cow/calf	6/16-10/15
*Permitted use is the livestock numbers and season of use listed on your grazing permit. **Authorized use is the number of livestock and season of use you are authorized for in the current grazing season and reflects stocking and/or season of use adjustments for the given year.							

**Non-use:**

Please be aware that nonuse in excess of 10% of your permitted numbers must be requested at least 30 days before the "on" date. Nonuse for personal convenience may be approved on a year-to-year basis for a maximum of three consecutive years and not more than four years in any 10-year period. Longer periods of nonuse for range protection will only be approved under a written agreement.

**LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT**

Grazing Schedule			
Unit (Pasture)	Tentative Dates*	Days/Unit	Number of Livestock
Dog Valley	6/16 until proper use is reached in key area	Variable	706
Bench	Based on proper use	Variable	706
East Mountain /Trail Mountain	Based on proper use	Variable	706
Cove Fort	Based on proper use	Variable	706

\*The above schedule is an **estimate** and may be modified at any time if: utilization levels are met, water availability is inadequate, drought, delayed forage development or wet soil conditions.

If allowable use levels are met early in the scheduled pasture, cattle will be required to be moved to another pasture, or removed from the Forest.

Type of rotation: Deferred Rotation

All livestock must be removed from the Forest by the permitted off date listed above. This means if it takes you ten days to gather your cattle, you should begin gathering, October 5

Previous year's grazing results: Thank you for the cooperation last year keeping grazing use within proper use standards, and for your work in maintaining improvements.

Need to work on keeping cattle in proper pasture. Once proper use has been met in current pasture, all cattle should be kept out of that pasture for the remainder of the season.

Notice of Non-compliance/Suspension Actions: None

Additional instructions: Grazing will begin when perennial grasses are in the flower head.

### **UTILIZATION STANDARDS & MONITORING**

Maximum Allowable Forage Use Criteria		
Vegetation Type	Stubble Height/Use	Comments
Riparian Hydric Species	4"	Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment.
Riparian Emphasis Management Areas	6"	Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment.
Non-hydric sod forming grass species in riparian areas	1.5"	Primarily Kentucky bluegrass-Triggers the time to move livestock between units or off the allotment.
Wheatgrass seedings	60%	Management option to exceed 60% use to maintain healthy seedings.
Riparian/upland browse: Sprouts and young-aged plants	≤40%	# of current year's available twigs removed.
Riparian/upland mature browse	≤50%	# of current year's available twigs removed.
Upland grass/forb	40-60% of key species; varies by grazing system and desired condition	% of current year's growth.
Riparian ground cover	Maintain ground cover of at least 70% within riparian areas.	

You are responsible to monitor your livestock and comply with the listed utilization standards and to move livestock prior to **any** of the above standards being exceeded.

Compliance monitoring inspections will be conducted by Forest Service personnel throughout the grazing season in key areas across the allotment. You are invited and it is recommended that you participate in these inspections.

Key areas for each area are: Dog Valley Unit- Charlesworth Valley. Trail Mountain Unit-between Mud Spring and Old Clear Creek Highway and meadows along highway. Big Bench Unit-bottom of Pole Canyon. East Mountain Unit-Grass Creek bottom. Cove Fort Unit- Burned areas approximately one half mile from water.

Exceeding the utilization standards may be considered non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of the permit.

## **BILLING**

Your annual grazing bill must be paid and notification received in our office prior to turning livestock onto the National Forest. It may take 10 days or more from the time you mail your payment until we receive payment notification so plan accordingly.

## **RANGE IMPROVEMENTS**

You are responsible for maintaining the range improvements assigned to you in Part 3 of your Term Grazing Permit. **All improvements are to be maintained to standard prior to livestock entering the pasture, even in the event of non-use.** Standards are found in your Term Grazing Permit or at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/fishlake/resources/rangemgt.shtml> . Livestock entry onto the Forest may be delayed if improvements are not maintained to acceptable standards.

Failure to maintain your assigned range improvements may be considered non-compliance with your Term Grazing Permit, and may be subject to suspension or cancellation of your permit.

Water Improvements	Location	Maintenance Responsibility
Black Hollow Spring trough		
Eagle Canyon Spring trough		
Hawley Spring trough		
North Fk Red Cedar Spring trough		
Red Cedar Spring trough		
Sulphur Spring spring development		
Sulphur spring troughs (2)		
Sulphur Springs pipeline		
Sulphur springs pond		
Trail Mtn Pond 1		
Trail Mtn Pond 2		
Trail Mtn Pond 3		
Gardner Hollow Pond		
Gray Spring Pond		
Water Canyon Trough		
Cove Waters Trough		
Wide Mouth Reservoir pond		
Mouth Water Canyon trough		
Mud Spring Trail Mtn Spring, Pipe		
Wide Mouth Spring, pipe		
Big Bench 1 Pond		
Big Bench 2 Pond		
Big Bench 3 Pond		
East Mtn 1 Pond		
East Mtn 2 Pond		

FENCES	Length / Location	Maintenance Responsibility
Kanosh Grass Creek Division	3 miles	
Gardner Hollow	1.25 miles	
Cottonwood	.25 miles	
Grass Creek/Clear Creek Div	4 miles	
Dog Valley/Cove Ft Div	1.5 miles	
Grass Creek East Mtn	1.5 miles	
Three Creeks	.5 miles	
Clear Creek	.25 miles	

You must obtain prior written approval from the District Ranger before constructing/installing structural range improvements or using or applying any pesticide/herbicide except for personal use of insect repellent.

Any improvement, which is no longer functional or no longer needed, will be removed from the allotment by the permittee. The removal of any improvement must have prior approval by the District Ranger.

#### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

You or the association will furnish sufficient riders or herders for proper distribution, protection and management of livestock on the allotment as required by the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and/or Annual Operating Instructions (AOI).

You are required to **submit actual use** information for the allotment. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the district office within two weeks of removal of livestock from the Forest.

Salt and other dietary supplements are a distribution tool, and as such, should not be placed within ¼ mile of riparian areas, water troughs and ponds; within 200 ft. of designated roads, trails, trail heads or camping spots which have frequent use. Avoid salting in or near tree plantations or regenerating aspen stands. Exceptions to these standards must have prior approval.

Salt should be removed from areas where feed has been used to standards.

The Fishlake National Forest Travel Plan must be followed while managing livestock unless approved in advance and in writing by the District Ranger.

Livestock should be drifted instead of trailed wherever possible. Previously grazed units must have all livestock removed from them.

All livestock feed or straw brought onto the Forest must be certified weed free per Regional Forester's Order #04-00-058, dated March 26, 1996 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/fishlake/resources/rangemgt.shtml>).

Dead livestock shall be moved at least ¼ mile from roads, water sources, and camping spots, which have evidence of frequent use.